

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of which in the applications:

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Amended) The optical cable adapter or connector according to claim [[1]] 14, wherein said plugging cavities are adapted to receive two-prong plugs.

5. (Amended) The optical cable adapter or connector according to claim [[1]] 14, which further comprises a pair of flange sections obliquely extending from opposite ends of said adapter or connector for securing said adapter or connector.

6. (Amended) An optical cable adapter or connector to which a plurality of optical plugs are detachably connected, comprising:

a pair of adapter members or connector members attached to a panel, wherein said pair of adapter or connector members are joined together such that respective front faces thereof abut on each other; and

a plurality of plugging cavities provided in said adapter members or connector members such that said plugging cavities are inclined with respect to said panel.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Amended) The optical cable adapter [[of]] or connector according to claim 6 [[or 7]], wherein each of said adapter members or connector members comprises a flange section provided at a certain angle with respect to said plugging cavities.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Amended) The optical cable adapter [[of]] or connector according to claim 6 [[or 7]], wherein said adapter members or connector members are inserted into an opening provided in said panel to be attached to said panel.

11. (Withdrawn) The optical cable adapter of connector according to claim 8, wherein said flange section is secured to said panel with bolts so as to attach said adapter members or connector members to said panel.

12. (Withdrawn) The optical cable adapter of connector according to claim 6, wherein one of said pair of adapter members or connector members comprises at least one jaw section on side thereof and the other of said adapter members or connector members comprises at least one cantilevered adapter lock tab on side thereof at a position corresponding to said jaw section so that said pair of adapter members or connector members are attached to a periphery of said panel.

13. (Previously presented) An attaching member for attaching an optical cable adapter or connector to a panel, said attaching member provided separately from adapter members of said adapter or connector members of said connector and comprising:

a panel abutment member provided along said panel; and

two cantilevered adapter lock tabs provided in a vicinity of said panel abutment member, wherein a periphery of an opening of said panel is retained between said panel abutment member and adapter lock tabs such that said adapter or connector is attached and inclined to said panel.

14. (New) An optical cable adapter or connector to which a plurality of optical cable plugs are detachably connected, comprising:

a plurality of adapter or connector sections integrally formed and arranged in a plane of a panel and in a stepped fashion;

a plurality of plugging cavities provided in said adapter or connector sections, one for each section, for receiving said optical cable plugs, wherein said plugging cavities extend at an acute angle with said plane so as to align said optical cable plugs such that said optical cable plugs are plugged in mating optical cable plugs inserted in an opposite direction; and

a plurality of partition walls for separating said adapter or connector section and defining said plugging cavities.

15. (New) The optical adapter or connector according to claim 14, which further comprises split sleeves.

16. (New) The optical adapter or connector according to claim 15, wherein said plugging cavities has split sleeve receiving cavities for receiving said split sleeves.

17. (New) An optical cable adapter or connector to which a plurality of optical plugs are detachably connected, comprising:

a pair of adapter members or connector members attached to a panel; and

a plurality of plugging cavities provided in said adapter members or connector members such that said plugging cavities are inclined with respect to said panel,

Application Number: 09/943,000

page 5

Art Unit: 2872

wherein each of said plugging cavities comprises a pair of plug locks opposed to each other.